

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed June 25, 2003.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant affirms the election of claims 1-15 and 31-44, without traverse. Applicant has cancelled claims 16-30 in this Response. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications on various ones of these claims.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because Figure 6 had two views. Applicant submits herewith a proposed drawing correction for Figure 6. Applicant hereby requests approval of these drawing changes. Applicant has also amended the specification to correspond to the revised figure.

Section 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 31, among others, under Section 102(a) as being disclosed by Smith et al. (US Patent No. 6,476,829). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Office Action refers to Smith, col. 1 line 61 to col. 2, line 17 as teaching claims 1 and 31.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

1. (Original) A method for rendering and displaying information using a computer graphics system, the method comprising:
receiving data corresponding to a plurality of objects to be rendered, wherein the data includes a first data value and a second data value for each object;
using the first and second data values for each object to assign each object a first non-positional rendering attribute and a second non-positional rendering attribute;
using the first and second non-positional rendering attributes to select a third non-positional rendering attribute; and
rendering a scene including at least a subset of the plurality of objects, wherein said rendering is performed according the first, second, and third non-positional rendering attributes, and wherein the scene is displayable on a display device.

The cited portion of the Smith patent recites as follows:

One embodiment of the present invention provides a system for viewing plurality of objects on a display that allows a user to zoom on a non-positional display attribute of the plurality of objects. The system operates by receiving a value for a mapped attribute for an object as well as a value for a zooming parameter for the non-positional display attribute. The system maps the mapped attribute to the non-positional display attribute for the object by computing a function of the value of the mapped attribute and the zooming parameter to produce a value for the non-positional display attribute. If the value for the zooming parameter changes in a first direction, the function maps a narrower range of mapped attribute values to prominent display attribute values. If the value for the zooming parameter changes in a second direction, the function maps a wider range of mapped attribute values to prominent display attribute values. Next, the system outputs the object to the display using the non-positional display attribute.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the value for the zooming parameter is received from the user through a data input device, so that the user can adjust the zooming parameter. This allows the user to narrow or widen a range of mapped attributes that are displayed with prominent display attribute values.

Applicant submits that the Smith patent does not teach numerous elements of claim 1 above. The cited portion of Smith above refers to mapping “the mapped attribute to the non-positional display attribute for the object by computing a function of the value of the mapped attribute and the zooming parameter to produce a value for the non-positional display attribute.” Applicant cannot find any teaching or suggestion in the Smith patent regarding “using the first and second data values for each object to assign each object a first non-positional rendering attribute and a second non-positional rendering attribute” or “using the first and second non-positional rendering attributes to select a third non-positional rendering attribute”. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 31, and those dependent thereon, are allowable for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

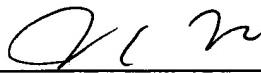
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-80300/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- Return Receipt Postcard
- Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- Notice of Change of Address
- Check in the amount of \$ _____ for fees (_____).
- Other: _____

Respectfully submitted,



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